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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/568,694

09/18/2006

Hiroshi Ujiie

P29320

4550

7055 7590 01/10/2011
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE
RESTON, VA 20191

EXAMINER

DICKINSON, PAUL W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1618

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/10/2011

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
10568694	9/18/2006	UJIE ET AL.	P29320

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EXAMINER

PAUL DICKINSON

ART UNIT	PAPER
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1618	20101229
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DATE MAILED:

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Commissioner for Patents

Claims 1-10 of claims filed 2/17/2006 were previously under consideration. Newly submitted claims 11-18 filed 10/29/2010 are directed to an invention that lacks unity with the invention originally claimed for the following reasons:

The common technical feature of the invention is a polymer material containing carbon as a constitutional element that is produced by modifying at least a portion of the surface thereof by particle bombardment. This element cannot be a common technical feature because it is not novel. US 20020155295 (document already in record) discloses a method comprising bombarding ions onto expanded polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE) (a polymer material containing carbon as a constitutional element) with a dose volume of 1×10^{13} to less than 1×10^{16} ions/cm² (see abstract; paragraphs 5-17; examples). Because the common technical feature is not novel, it cannot be a special technical feature and accordingly the invention lacks unity of invention. Note, the originally presented claims were drawn to a product and method of making, these claims have been canceled and replaced with method of use claims.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 11-18 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a nonelected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be bona fide, Applicant is given ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Dickinson whose telephone number is 571-270-3499. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 9-6:30 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Hartley can be reached on 571-272-0616. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael G. Hartley/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1618

/PAUL DICKINSON/
Examiner, Art Unit 1618

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